

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2974

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3110

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PO

SUBJ: PROSPECTS FOR NATIONAL LABOR CONFEDERATION

REF: (A) LISBON 2742; (B) LISBON A-134

1. PORTUGUESE LABOR CONFEDERATION, INTERSINDICAL, HAS CONVOKED NATIONAL LABOR CONGRESS FOR JULY 25-27. THIS CONGRESS ESPECTED TO "CREATE" THE SINGLE NATIONAL LABOR CONFEDERATION AUTHORIZED BY NEW LAW REGULATING LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. IN EFFECT, FORTH-COMING NATIONAL LABOR CONGRESS IS EXPECTED TO CONFER UPON INTERSINDICAL "DE JURE" STATUS AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF PORTUGUESE LABOR, IN ADDITION TO ITS EXISTING "DE FACTO" STATUS.

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2. DATES CHOSEN BY INTERSINDICAL FOR NATIONAL LABOR CONGRESS CONVENIENTLY FALL IN 60-DAY INTERREGNUM WHEN UNIONS WILL HAVE ALREADY RECEIVE LEGAL RECOGNITION BY MINISTRY OF LABOR, BUT BEFORE AUGUST 29, BY WHICH DATE NEW INTERNAL UNION ELECTIONS MUST BE HELD BY SECRET BALLOT. IT IS EXPECTED THAT SECRET BALLOTING WILL ALLOW SOCIALISTS TO WIN CONTROL OF A NUMBER OF UNIONS. EVEN SO, SOCIALISTS WILL STILL BE FACED WITH A CONFEDERATION DOMINATED BY AN ENTRENCHED, COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED LEADERSHIP.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SOCIALISTS HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO MAKE EFFECTIVE POLITICAL CAPITAL FROM THEIR VICTORY IN THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, THEIR DEMONSTRATED GRASS-ROOTS SUPPORT HAS ENCOURAGED THEIR ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORTS IN LABOR. PROSPECTS ARE FOR ALONG UP-HILL BATTLE AS THE SOCIALISTS ATTEMPT TO CONVERT THIS NUMERICAL STRENGTH INTO AN EFFECTIVE AND ORGANIZED FORCE IN LABOR.
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